

Amendments to the Claims:

1-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A process for cutting at least one optical fiber, the process comprising the steps of:
introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
effecting the relative movement of said beam along a path across the optical axis of said glass fiber ~~along a path~~, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path, said path having at least one predetermined angle greater than about 15° from perpendicular of the optical axis of said glass fiber.
7. (original) The process according to claim 6, wherein said predetermined angle is about 45°.
8. (canceled)
9. (previously presented) A process for cutting at least one optical fiber, the process comprising the steps of:
introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
effecting the relative movement of said beam across said glass fiber along a path comprising two predetermined angles, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path to shape a wedge on the end face of the fiber.
10. (currently amended) A process for cutting at least one optical fiber, the process comprising the steps of:

introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
effecting the relative movement of said beam along a curved path across the optical axis of said glass fiber ~~along a curved path~~, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path.

11. (previously presented) A process for cutting at least one optical fiber, the process comprising the steps of:
introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
effecting the relative movement of said beam across said glass fiber along a path having a predetermined angle, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path, said predetermined angle being ~~is~~ repeatable within less than $\pm 0.5^\circ$ at the core region.
12. (previously presented) A process for cutting at least one optical fiber, the process comprising the steps of:
introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
effecting the relative movement of said beam across said glass fiber along a path having a predetermined angle, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path, said predetermined angle being within about $\pm 10 \mu\text{m}$ of a reference surface along the optical axis of said glass fiber.
13. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein said beam is a continuation wave.

14. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein said beam is a pulsed.
15. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the laser is a CO₂ laser.
- 16-17. (canceled)
18. (original) A fiber prepared in accordance with the process of claim 9.
19. (currently amended) A fiber obtainable by
introducing a glass fiber into a holding and positioning device;
actuating a laser device to deliver a beam having a power suitable for sublimating glass; and
effecting the relative movement of said beam along a path across the optical axis of said glass fiber ~~along a path~~, thereby sublimating glass and cutting said glass fiber along said path;
wherein said fiber comprises an end face at least a portion of which is angled at more than about 15° from perpendicular of the optical axis of said fiber.
20. (previously presented) The fiber of claim 19, comprising an end face having a rounded edge.
21. (previously amended) The fiber of claim 20, wherein said fiber is integrated with an optical package and positioned within said optical package in a v-groove
- 22-23. (canceled)
24. (previously presented) The fiber according to claim 19, wherein said predetermined angle is about 45°.

Attorney Docket No. 40843-C

Application No: 09/880,698

Page 5

25. (previously presented) The process of claim 19, wherein said relative movement of said fiber to said laser beam is effected in one of two ways, a first way in which the fiber moves and the laser beam remains stationary, and a second way in which the laser beam moves and the fiber remains stationary